

From: Bill Brooks
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 11:28am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the current Microsoft settlement as I believe that the settlement does NOT go far enough considering the damage that has occurred, the damage that is occurring, and the damage the will continue to occur because of the actions of Microsoft in the area of software products.

I would also be opposed to any settlement that would have Microsoft providing Microsoft software products to Education as it is a self-serving action in that if Microsoft gives their software to Education, then the students would learn Microsoft software products, and as all of us know - we tend to lean towards using products that we currently know. Giving Microsoft software to Education is a MARKETING PLOY by Microsoft - not a valid settlement option.

The two products that have helped form my opinion are:

- * Microsoft Word vs. WordPerfect (word processors) - I have both products at home and feel that WordPerfect is more user friendly, a feeling that is shared with some others that have used both word processors. But many people use Word because it "came with their computer" and "did not cost them anything".

- * Another product is the web browsers IE and Netscape. For many years Netscape was far better, but as Microsoft gave IE with the operating system users started using it as it "came with the computer" and "did not cost them anything". IE is now better then Netscape - I believe because the cost of IE was included in the cost of the operating system whereas Netscape had to match the price of IE (this means give it away free). A problem is that IE only works on Microsoft's operating system and the Apple operating system - what about the other operating systems?

As a consumer I feel that I would be better served by splitting the Microsoft operating systems away from other Microsoft software products (word processors, web browsers, spread sheets, databases, etc). By this I mean to say - BREAK UP THE MICROSOFT MONOLOPY and give me the choice of what I want to buy.

Thanks

Bill Brooks
Consumer and Software Engineer
bbb Brooks@sisna.com
bbrooks@clearstonecorp.com

CC: bbbrooks@sisna.com@inetgw